



BAPTIST PRESS

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November 15, 1974

'No' On State Lottery
Say Indiana Baptists

74-82

HAMMOND, Ind. (BP)--Indiana Southern Baptists during their 16th annual state convention here adopted a record near-million dollar budget, voted opposition to a proposed state lottery and authorized a laymen's committee to study the status of pastors' salaries in the state.

In what was described by many observers as "the most peaceful convention in years," a record 255 "messengers" to the State Convention of Baptists in Indiana adopted a 1975 budget of \$998,605, an increase of 14 percent above the 1974 budget.

A record state Cooperative Program unified budget goal of \$657,000 was approved with 30 percent of these receipts from local churches within the state to go to world missions through national Southern Baptist Convention. Cooperative Program. The 30 per cent is another record for Indiana Baptists, having increased from 29.4 percent in 1974.

Messengers adopted a strong resolution opposing a state lottery and parimutuel gambling in the Hoosier State. Both issues are expected to be faced by the 1975 Indiana General Assembly.

The Indiana messengers responded to an appeal made by E. Harmon Moore, executive secretary for the state convention, that a 30-member committee of laymen be named to study the present status and future needs of the state's pastors and church staff members. The committee was instructed to report at next year's convention.

In other action, the messengers failed to pass a proposed constitutional amendment which would have returned to the executive board the power to elect its own officers. When the Indiana Baptist convention's constitution was revised in 1972, the election of the board officers was placed with the convention in annual session.

Other resolutions encouraged church members to skip one meal each week and contribute one dollar per week for the alleviating of world hunger, urged Congress to prohibit the advertising of alcoholic beverages on radio and television and asked the Indiana General Assembly for stronger anti-obscenity laws.

Leamon Blalock, the pastor of Orchard Drive Baptist Church in Hammond and a member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention, was elected as the state convention's president.

The 1975 meeting of Indiana Baptists will be held November 11-13 at Speedway Baptist Church in Indianapolis.

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Paternalism Resolution
Called a "Tragedy"

11/15/74

LOS ANGELES (BP)--A black Baptist preacher, speaking to California Southern Baptists in their annual meeting here, said it was "tragic" that the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc., passed a resolution last September in Buffalo, N.Y., questioning Southern Baptist motives in racial relationships.

E.V. Hill, president of the California State Baptist Convention, a body of black Baptists affiliated with the NBC, USA, Inc., referred to a resolution, written by the national body's president, J.H. Jackson, and approved at a sparsely-attended morning session of the five-day gathering in Buffalo.

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"Tragically, in my own convention in Buffalo. . .there was a resolution passed that questioned your (th SBC's) motives, that sugg sted that you were too paternalistic, that suggested that there needed to be a rethinking of our relationships as Baptist bodies," Hill told registered "messengers" of the Southern Baptist General Convention of California.

He noted that a wrong interpretation of the resolution could result in polarized Baptists taking "an opportunity to give up--an opportunity to quit" cooperative relationships.

"I stand today with a bit of sadness because I've been one of those who fought through the South, through Texas, for the day to come when there would be no east, nor west, north nor south and yet, 20 years later, as I stand here in Los Angeles, our country and our world, and particularly our church, is again gripped with polarization, so that I doubt if we are any closer to being together than we were 20 years ago," he declared.

"So, these are serious times and, in light of these serious times, there are those who have retreated to safe places, comfortable positions, comfortable attitudes and pretentious messages that do not deal with the issues of our time," he said.

"I plead with you and pray with you, don't fumble the ball by listening to the voice of caution, listening to the voice of 'take it easy,' . . .by listening to the ethnic chi fs f our country."

Offering a challenge to messengers, Hill said, "We who have been born of the Spirit of God and commissioned to go forth do not need anyone's permission to win the lost at any cost, no matter their color nor their background."

In action before the convention, messengers adopted a \$3.7 million budget, re-elected Paul Brooks Leath, a pastor from Long Beach, as convention president, and named a black pastor, the second in its history, as a convention officer.

He is James Coffee, pastor of Community Baptist Church, Santa Rosa, who will serv as first vice president.

Resolutions called for "support with prayers and actions" . President Ford's efforts to lead the nation, and the upholding of former President Nixon "with prayers during his time of physical and spiritual crisis."

Of the \$3.7 million budget, more than \$1.9 million is anticipated in state Cooperative Program receipts from California churches, with \$513,357 of that amount to go to worldwide missions through the SBC's national Cooperative Program. California Baptists set an additional \$500,000 goal for the annual Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong SBC offerings for foreign and home missions.

Thirty years ago when the convention met in Los Angeles, the only other time it has met there, it voted a \$50,297 budget and reported 5,184 members in 75 churches. Now, it has a \$3.7 million budget, with 285,000 members in 925 churches. This year's convention set a goal for 1,006 churches by the end of 1976.

Expanding on his remarks on Southern Baptists, Hill said, "God has placed, at this particular moment in history, into the hands of Southern Baptists, the hope of evangelical witnessing throughout the world. You are the leaders. You have within your power and your might and your technology and your printing house in Nashville sufficiency to reach the whole earth with the message of Jesus Christ."

"What you do with it, how soon you will pass it off, how soon it will pass you ov r, whether or not you will forfeit your opportunity to bring the world to the feet of Jesus depends upon what you will do at this convention and other conventions. I plead with you, don't fumble the ball. . ."

"I challenge you that the spirit of Southern Baptists. . .ought to send you forth winning the lost at any cost. If you can win the lost with my cooperation. . .th n well it be. . ."

Next year's California convention is set for Nov. 11-13, Redding, Calif.

Mississippi Baptists Oppose
Change of Name for the SBC

JACKSON, Miss. (BP)--Registered "messengers" at the annual meeting of the Mississippi Baptist Convention went on record here in opposition to a name change for the Southern Baptist Convention.

Currently, a seven-member committee, approved at last year's annual SBC session in Dallas, is studying the possibility of a name change for the 12.3-million-member SBC, the nation's largest Protestant-evangelical denomination, which covers all 50 states.

In other action, messengers approved a record high state Cooperative Program unified budget of \$6.6 million and elected a pastor, James Richardson of First Baptist Church, Leland, as president.

Richardson's election broke a long-standing tradition which has alternated laymen and clergymen as presidents of the convention. Richardson, who succeeds David Grant, a Jackson pastor, was elected over two laymen who were nominated.

Other elections saw two women, believed to be the first in convention history, elected to the convention's board. Women have served on other Mississippi Baptist boards and agencies.

Other resolutions, besides the one opposing an SBC name change, encouraged action to curb violence and response to the starving and undernourished people of the world.

The record high budget is part of an overall mission outlay of \$8.85 million, which includes amounts for the state's mission offering and the annual SBC Lottie Moon and Annie Armstrong offerings for foreign and home missions.

More than \$2 million--or 30.92 percent--of the \$6.6 million will go to world missions through the national SBC Cooperative Program unified budget.

Messengers also voted to reconstruct Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, a facility in Pass Christian destroyed by Hurricane Camille in 1969, and named a committee to study a proposal to build a retirement home at Camp Kittiwake, also in Pass Christian.

The convention adopted a recommendation from its board to separate the affairs of Mississippi Baptist Seminary, a school for blacks, from those of the convention's department of cooperative ministries with National (black) Baptists.

The department will continue to advise and work with the seminary and the convention board (along with the SBC Home Mission Board, by agreement) will continue to make such allocations as it desires to the seminary, a convention spokesman said.

Next year's convention is set for First Baptist Church, Jackson, Nov. 11-13.

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Colo. Baptists Reaffirm
Statewide Body's Autonomy

11/15/74

WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. (BP)--The Colorado Baptist Convention meeting here adopted the largest budget of its 19-year history and removed a stipulation that churches eligible to send "messengers" to the annual meeting must "be in fellowship with the local association."

Colorado Baptist messengers adopted a record budget of \$847,706 and reelected Carey Miller, pastor of Central Baptist Church of Aurora, Colo. to a second term as state convention president.

The 1975 budget of Colorado Baptists provides for 22 percent of gifts, or \$99,271, to world missions through the Southern Baptist Cooperative Program unified budget, an increase of 1.5 percent over 1974.

In changing the membership requirement for seating messengers, Colorado Baptists

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reaffirmed the autonomous nature of their state convention by changing a provision of the constitutional bylaws.

Previously, Colorado churches weren't eligible to send messengers to the state convention unless the church body was in "fellowship" with its local association of Southern Baptist churches.

Argument in support of changing the membership requirement was that the convention is an autonomous body and shouldn't be bound by the procedures of any other autonomous Baptist body.

Membership requirements for seating messengers to the Colorado convention now are, "The church shall have adopted the articles of faith commonly subscribed to by the Southern Baptist Convention churches and shall demonstrate her desire to cooperate with the convention in spirit and practice."

The 1975 state budget, a spokesman said, will be provided by \$451,132 coming from Colorado Southern Baptist churches, and \$396,574 coming from other sources, primarily the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, which will give \$187,612.

In 1975, the Colorado convention will meet November 11-13 at Calvary Baptist Church in Colorado Springs.

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Arizona Baptists Approve
Budget; Maintain Structure

11/15/74

LAS VEGAS, Nev. (BP)--Southern Baptists from Arizona and southern Nevada adopted a \$1.1 million annual budget and voted to retain their present organizational structure at the 46th annual meeting of the Arizona Southern Baptist Convention here.

In other action, registered "messengers" to the convention passed a resolution deploring the allocation of 16 tons of "vitaly needed food grains to the producers of alcoholic beverages" and re-elected Henry Wooten, a pastor from North Tucson, Ariz., as president.

Twenty percent of all undesignated funds of the \$1,176,363 budget will go for world missions through the national Cooperative Program unified budget of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Messengers voted to maintain present organizational structure of the convention after a two-year study by a committee which determined "overwhelming grass roots support for the present plan," a convention spokesman said.

Next year's convention will meet Nov. 11-13, in Phoenix, Ariz.

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